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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Tuesday 13 June 1978 CG NIDC 78/137C

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NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION
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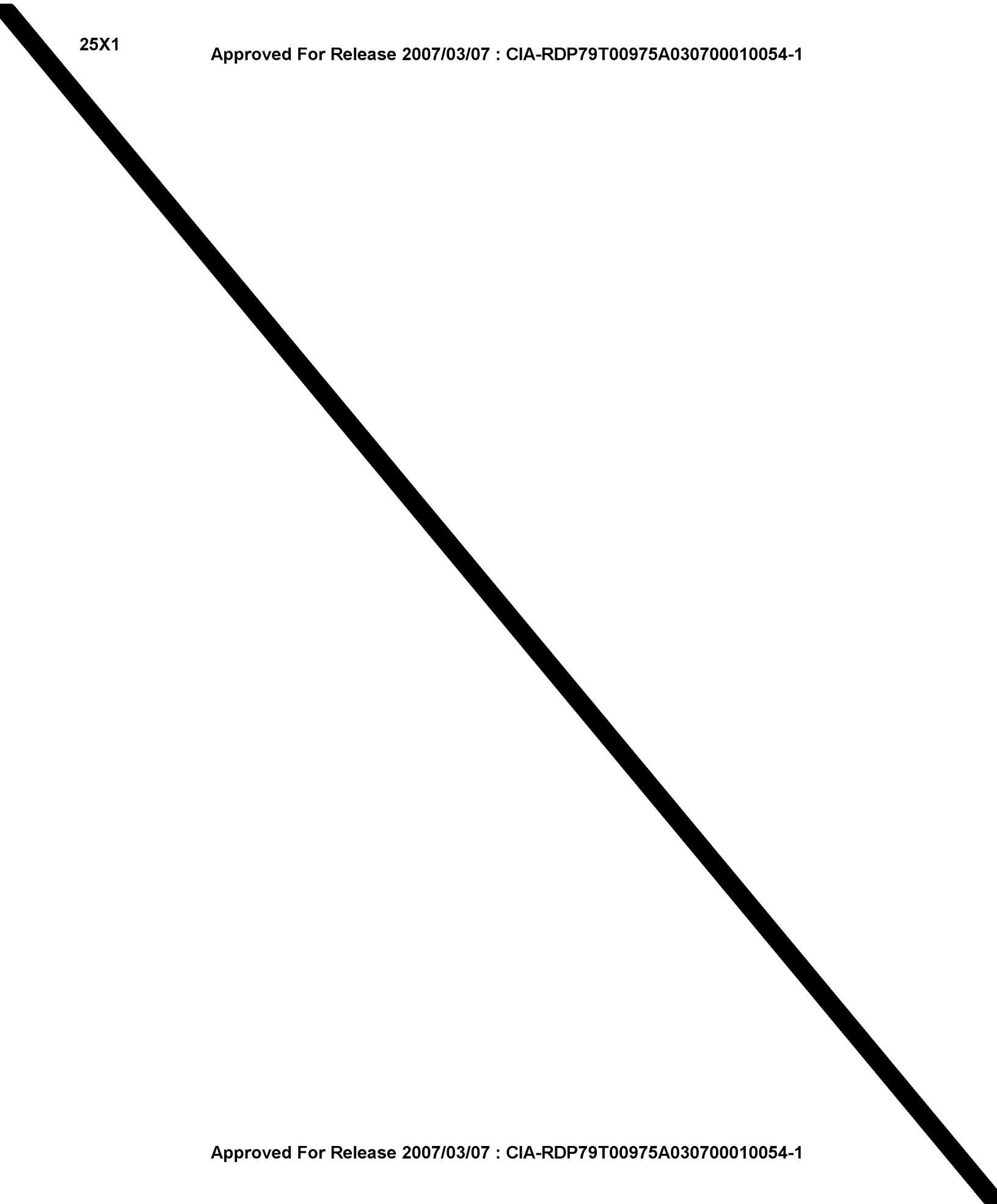
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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Tuesday, 13 June 1978.

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25X1 The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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BULGARIA: Increasing Unrest

25X1 *The evidence indicates increasing dissatisfaction in Bulgaria over shortages of food and consumer goods and the generally low level of living.*

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US Embassy has heard that 14,000 workers struck at one of the country's largest metallurgical complexes near Sofia. We have no indication of police repression against the strikers.

25X1 The worker unrest is at least partly the result of efforts in recent years to improve the country's balance-of-payments position by drastically cutting imports and boosting exports of food products. This policy has contributed to existing domestic shortages. Regulations announced last year aimed at increasing labor productivity by tying wages closer to indices of performance are also reported to have caused worker resentment.

25X1 The regime cannot abruptly increase the availability of food and other consumer goods, so further instances of dissatisfaction could occur.

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CANADA: Constitutional Reforms

25X1 //*Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau's constitutional reform proposals announced yesterday will do little to resolve the differences in federal-provincial relations.*//

25X1 //Trudeau's proposals include giving the provinces a voice in appointments to the Senate and the Supreme Court, designing a charter of human rights that would give additional guarantees to linguistic minorities, and adopting a new constitution to replace the British North America Act of 1867 that technically can be changed only by the British Parliament.//

25X1 //Neither Quebec nor the western provinces, particularly Alberta, which have long sought greater autonomy, will feel these reforms go far enough. Quebec is determined to set its own cultural policies, and Quebec Premier Levesque last week denounced what he termed in advance "cosmetic changes" to the constitution.//

25X1 //Alberta and the other western provinces would like to be free to make more economic decisions, especially on control of provincial resources. Albertan Premier Lougheed has long feared that Trudeau would propose only simple adjustments in the federal-provincial relationship and has urged Ottawa to consider implementing what he calls a "third option"--a middle road between separatism and the status quo. 25X1

25X1

BRIEF

Italy

25X1 The Italian electorate, in two referenda held yesterday and Sunday, voted to retain laws providing for tough antiterrorist measures and for public financing of political parties. Law-and-order legislation was upheld by 76.7 percent of the voters, while 56.3 percent endorsed continued public contributions to the parties.

25X1 The Communist leadership will be relieved by the strong endorsement of the antiterrorist law. The results suggest that the vast majority of the Communist rank and file

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supported the leadership's decision to push for retention of the law, even though the party had fought its passage in Parliament three years ago. It was generally assumed that a vote of support much below 80 percent would indicate defections by Communist voters who had not been converted to the new party line.

25X1 All of the major parties, on the other hand, will be embarrassed by the public's lukewarm support of the public financing law. Parties representing more than 90 percent of the electorate campaigned to keep the law. The tiny Radical Party, which organized the referendum and generally operates as a political gadfly, will cite the result to support its claim that the dominant parties are not reflecting voter sentiment 25X1 accurately.

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